



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

Sweeping new vaccine mandates for 100 million Americans

By ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Thursday is announcing sweeping new federal vaccine requirements affecting as many as 100 million Americans in an all-out effort to increase COVID-19 vaccinations and curb the surging delta variant that is killing thousands each week and jeopardizing the nation's economic recovery.

The expansive rules mandate that all employers with more than 100 workers require them to be vaccinated or test for the virus weekly, affecting about 80 million Americans. And the roughly 17 million workers at health facilities that receive federal Medicare or Medicaid also will have to be fully vaccinated.

Biden is also signing an executive order to require vaccination for employees of the executive branch and contractors who do business with the federal government — with no option to test out. That covers several million more workers.

Biden was to announce the new requirements in a Thursday afternoon address from the White House as part of a new "action plan" to address the latest rise in coronavirus cases and the stagnating pace of COVID-19 shots that has raised doubts among the public over his handling of the pandemic.



President Joe Biden speaks during an event to celebrate labor unions, in the East Room of the White House, Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

Continued on Page 2

Fit2fly COVID-19 Testing Center

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!

**NAAT molecular (PCR):
Result in 30 minutes!**

Antigen Test: \$50
PCR Test also available



MedCare Clinic
URGENT CARE

Tel: (+297) 280-0630

info@medcare.aw / www.medcare.aw

Locations: The Cove Mall (8:00 AM - 6:00 PM) Medcare near Courtyard by Marriott (8:00 AM - 2:00 PM)

**OUR Guests CLAIM
OUR RESTAURANT SERVES
Amazing CEVICHE**

J.E. Irausquin Blvd 64 Eagle Beach, Aruba Info: + 297 5925699
reservations@asiesmiperuenaruba.com • Closed on Mondays



**Craving
a Good
Steak?**



One pound of Natural grass-Fed Beef from the Argentinean Pampas,
Grilled to perfection by our Master Chefs over a real Charcoal Fire...
Juicy, Lean and full of Flavor.

It's Time for an extraordinary steak!

Closed on Sundays

Open Monday through Saturday from 11:30am till 11pm. For reservations call 582-3677
Lunch and Early Bird specials available till 5pm. Happy Hour from 5-7pm



Explore Aruba's Newest Rooftop Restaurant

Serving Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

OPEN DAILY FROM 7AM

@radissonbluaruba | T: 526-5000 | concierge@radissonbluaruba.com

Sweeping new vaccine mandates for 100 million Americans

Continued from Front

Just two months ago Biden prematurely declared the nation's "independence" from the virus.

Now, despite more than 208 million Americans having at least one dose of the vaccines, the U.S. is seeing about 300% more new COVID-19 infections a day, about two-and-a-half times more hospitalizations, and nearly twice the number of deaths compared to the same time last year.

Biden's plans were previewed Thursday afternoon by White House press secretary Jen Psaki and other senior administration officials ahead of the speech. After months of using promotions to drive the vaccination rate, Biden is taking a much firmer hand, as his aides blame people who have not yet received shots for the sharp rise in cases that is killing more than 1,000 people per day and imperiling a fragile economic rebound.

Psaki said Biden's "overarching objective here is to reduce the number of unvaccinated Americans," noting about 80 million adults remain unvaccinated.

An AP-NORC poll conducted in August found that 54% of Americans approved of Biden's stewardship of the public health crisis, down from 66% the month before, driven by a drop in support from Republicans and political independents.

In addition to the vaccination requirements, Biden is moving to double federal fines for airline passengers



Protesters opposing vaccine mandates march past the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif., Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021.

Associated Press

who refuse to wear masks on flights or to maintain face covering requirements on federal property in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

Biden was also to announce that the federal government will work to increase the supply of virus tests, and that the White House has secured concessions from retailers including Walmart, Amazon, and Kroger to sell at-home testing kits at cost beginning this week.

The administration is also to send additional federal support to assist schools in safely operating, including additional funding for testing. And Biden will call for large entertainment venues and arenas to require vaccinations or proof of a negative test for entry.

The requirement for large companies to mandate vaccinations or weekly testing for employees will be enacted through a forthcoming rule from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration that

carries penalties of \$14,000 per violation, an administration official said.

The White House did not immediately say when it would take effect, but said workers would have sufficient time to get vaccinated.

The rule would also require that large companies provide paid time off for vaccination.

Meanwhile, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will extend a vaccination requirement issued earlier this summer — for nursing home staff — to other healthcare settings including hospitals, home-health agencies and dialysis centers.

Separately, the Department of Health and Human Services will require vaccinations in Head Start Programs, as well as schools run by the Department of Defense and Bureau of Indian Education, affecting about 300,000 employees. Biden's order for executive branch workers and contractors includes ex-

ceptions for workers seeking religious or medical exemptions from vaccination, according to Psaki.

Federal workers and contractors will have 75 days to get fully vaccinated. Workers who don't comply will be referred to their agencies' human resources departments for counseling and discipline, to include potential termination.

"We would like to be a model" to other organizations and business around country, Psaki said of the federal workforce. The AP-NORC poll found 55% of Americans in favor of requiring government workers to be fully vaccinated, compared with 21% opposed.

Biden has encouraged COVID-19 vaccine requirements in settings like schools, workplaces and university campuses, and the White House hopes the strengthened federal mandate will inspire more businesses to follow suit. On Thursday, the Los Angeles Board of Education was expected to vote on requiring all students 12 and older to be fully vaccinated in the nation's second-largest school district.

The Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services, the Indian Health Service, and the National Institutes of Health have previously announced vaccine requirements for much of their staffs, and the Pentagon moved last month to require all servicemembers to get vaccinated.

Combined, the White House estimates those re-

quirements cover 2.5 million Americans. Thursday's order is expected to impact nearly 2 million more federal workers and potentially millions of contractors. More than 177 million are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, but confirmed cases of the virus have shot up in recent weeks to an average of about 140,000 per day with on average about 1,000 Americans dying from the virus daily, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Most of the spread — and the vast majority of severe illness and death — is occurring among those not yet fully vaccinated against the virus. So-called breakthrough infections in vaccinated people occur, but tend to be far less dangerous.

"We cannot accept this to be the new normal," said Dr. Leana Wen, a former Baltimore health commissioner who comments regularly on the pandemic.

If the pandemic continues unabated, it will mean 500,000 deaths a year. "Surely no one wants that."

Wen has been urging the White House to take a stronger line on vaccine requirements, including the use of so-called vaccine "passports" for travel and workplace mandates that leave little wiggle room.

"I want to see the full power of the federal government here, and not more half measures," she said. "I want to see a hard reset from the Biden administration, not more nibbling around the edges." □

Justice Dept. sues Texas over state's new abortion law

By MICHAEL BALSAMO
and PAUL WEBER
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Justice Department on Thursday sued Texas over a new state law that bans most abortions, arguing that it was enacted "in open defiance of the Constitution."

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Texas, asks a federal judge to declare that the law is invalid, "to enjoin its enforcement, and to protect the rights that Texas has violated."

"The act is clearly unconstitutional under long-standing Supreme Court precedent," Attorney General Merrick Garland said at a news conference announcing the suit.

The Justice Department argues the law unlawfully infringes on the constitutional rights of women and violates the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution, which says federal law supersedes state law.

Federal officials are also concerned other states could enact similar laws that would "deprive their citizens of their constitutional rights," he said.

"It is settled constitutional law that 'a State may not prohibit any woman from making the ultimate decision to terminate her pregnancy before viability,'" the lawsuit reads.

"But Texas has done just that."



Attorney General Merrick Garland announces a lawsuit to block the enforcement of new Texas law that bans most abortions at the Justice Department in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021.
Associated Press

The Texas law, known as SB8, prohibits abortions once medical professionals can detect cardiac activity — usually around six weeks, before some women know they're pregnant. Courts have blocked other states from imposing similar restrictions, but Texas' law differs significantly because it leaves enforcement to private citizens through civil lawsuits instead of criminal prosecutors.

Pressure had been mounting on the Justice Department not only from the White House — President Joe Biden has said the law is "almost un-American" —

but also from Democrats in Congress, who wanted Garland to take action. Earlier this week, Garland vowed the Justice Department would step in to enforce a federal law known as the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act. That law, commonly known as the FACE Act, normally prohibits physically obstructing access to abortion clinics by blocking entrances or threatening to use force to intimidate or interfere with someone. It also prohibits damaging property at abortion clinics and other reproductive health centers.

The lawsuit filed on Thursday seeks an immediate injunction to prohibit enforcing the law in Texas.

Under the statute, someone could bring a lawsuit — even if they have no connection to the woman getting an abortion — and could be entitled to at least \$10,000 in damages if they prevail in court.

"The statute deputizes all private citizens, without any showing of personal connection or injury, to serve as bounty hunters authorized to recover at least \$10,000 per claim from individuals who facilitate a woman's exercise of her constitu-

tional rights," Garland said. "The obvious and expressly acknowledged intention of this statutory scheme is to prevent women from exercising their constitutional rights by thwarting judicial review."

The attorney general also argued the Texas law could expose some federal employees at different agencies across the government to civil liability for doing their jobs.

The Texas law is the nation's biggest curb to abortion since the Supreme Court affirmed in the landmark 1973 decision *Roe v. Wade* that women have a constitutional right to an abortion.

Abortion providers have said they will comply, but already some of Texas' roughly two dozen abortion clinics have temporarily stopped offering abortion services altogether. Clinics in neighboring states, meanwhile, have seen a surge in patients from Texas.

Texas Right to Life, the state's largest anti-abortion group and a driver of the new law, said Thursday in anticipation of the lawsuit that it was already working with other states to pass similar measures.

"The Biden administration's ploy represents a desperate attempt to stop the life-saving law by any means necessary," the group said in a statement. □

Brian Benjamin is sworn in as New York lieutenant governor

By KAREN MATTHEWS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York Lt. Gov. Brian Benjamin thanked Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul for choosing him as he was sworn in Thursday to join her 2-week-old administration.

"You asking me to join the administration is making it abundantly clear that you want upstate and downstate, every ethnicity, every culture to feel included," Brian, formerly a state senator from Harlem, said after taking the oath of office at Hochul's New York City office. Hochul, the state's

former lieutenant governor, took over as governor on Aug. 24 following Andrew Cuomo's resignation over sexual harassment allegations that he has denied. Hochul is the first woman to serve as the state's governor and a Democrat from western New York. She pledged to choose someone from New York City to be her lieutenant governor. She announced her choice of Benjamin on Aug. 26.

Benjamin, the Harlem-born son of Caribbean immigrants, is New York's second Black lieutenant governor. David Paterson, also

a former state senator from Harlem, was elected lieutenant governor in 2006 and took over as governor in 2007 when Gov. Eliot Spitzer resigned in a sex scandal.

Hochul praised the 44-year-old Benjamin as an example of the American dream, saying he "started out with little, rose to where he is today but now turns back and doesn't think about himself, he thinks about how he can serve not just his senatorial district but now he'll be helping me serve 20 million New Yorkers."



Associated Press

Benjamin, a graduate of Brown University and Harvard Business School, ran unsuccessfully for New York City comptroller this year.

He has served as senior assistant majority leader in the state Senate and chair of the body's budget and revenue committee. □

Senate opposition leads White House to withdraw ATF nominee

By **MIKE BALSAMO** and **ALEXANDRA JAFFE**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House said Thursday it would withdraw the nomination of a gun-control advocate to lead the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives after nominee David Chipman ran into bipartisan opposition in the Senate.

"He would have been an exemplary director of the ATF," President Joe Biden said in a statement. "Unfortunately, Republicans in Congress have made clear that they intend to use gun crime as a political talking point instead of taking serious steps to address it. That's why they've moved in lockstep to block David Chipman's confirmation."

Chipman is a former federal agent and adviser at the gun control group Giffords. He won praise from advocates for his work pushing for greater regulation and enforcement on ghost guns, overhauling the background check system and moves to reduce the trafficking of illegal firearms.

But that same advocacy drew opposition from moderate Republicans such as Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, as well as independent Sen. Angus King of Maine, dooming his prospects for confirmation in the 50-50



In this Sept. 25, 2019 file photo, David Chipman, a former federal agent and adviser at the gun control group Giffords, speaks at a House Judiciary Committee hearing on assault weapons on Capitol Hill in Washington.

divided Senate.

Chipman's nomination had stalled for months and he was widely seen as one of the administration's most contentious nominees. The White House and top Democrats had been pushing to save his nomination for weeks but could not secure the necessary votes, with some Democrats saying privately they would not vote for him.

In a statement, Chipman said he remained committed to addressing the issue of violent crime and domestic terrorism.

"I knew this confirmation

process would be difficult, and while ultimately we weren't successful, it remains essential that ATF is led by a confirmed director who is accountable to the public and places no special interests before the safety of our children and our communities," he said. The withdrawal continues a pattern for Republican and Democratic administrations who have failed to get nominees through the politically fraught process since the director's position was made confirmable in 2006. Since then, only one nominee, former U.S. At-

torney B. Todd Jones has been confirmed. Jones made it through the Senate in 2013 but only after a six-month struggle. Jones was acting director when then-President Barack Obama nominated him in January 2013.

The nomination of Chuck Canterbury, a former president of the Fraternal Order of Police, by then-President Donald Trump was withdrawn in 2020 over Republican concerns about his gun rights stance.

The withdrawal of Chipman's nomination leaves the chief firearm and explo-

sive investigation agency without a confirmed leader at a time when the Biden Administration has made gun violence enforcement a priority, but with limited resources.

Earlier this year Biden announced a series of executive actions aimed at what he called an "epidemic and an international embarrassment" of gun violence in America.

The actions amounted to a fraction of the ambitious gun control agenda he proposed as a candidate and underscored his limited power to act alone on guns with difficult politics impeding legislative action on Capitol Hill.

Biden has urged Congress to tackle a number of issues, including expanded background checks and banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

But with an evenly-divided Senate — and any gun control legislation requiring 60 votes to pass — Democrats would have to keep every member of their narrow majority on board while adding 10 Republicans.

A person with knowledge of discussions with Chipman said he had been offered a position at Justice but turned it down. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to speak on the record. □

Associated Press



In this Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021 file photo, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis answers questions related to school openings and the wearing of masks in Surfside, Fla.

Associated Press

By **CURT ANDERSON**
AP Legal Affairs Writer

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Florida's new "anti-riot" law

championed by Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis as a way to quell violent protests is unconstitutional and can-

Florida's GOP-backed 'anti-riot' law blocked by judge

not be enforced, a federal judge ruled Thursday.

The 90-page decision by U.S. District Judge Mark Walker in Tallahassee found the recently-enacted law "vague and overbroad" and amounted to an assault on First Amendment rights of free speech and assembly as well as the Constitution's due process protections.

People engaged in peaceful protest or innocently in the same area when a demonstration turned violent could face criminal charges and stiff penalties

under the law, the judge said.

A key issue is defining what the word "riot" means in the statute.

Walker noted that past Florida laws sought to prevent demonstrations that could threaten segregationist Jim Crow-era practices.

"If this court does not enjoin the statute's enforcement, the lawless actions of a few rogue individuals could effectively criminalize the protected speech of hundreds, if not thousands, of law-abiding Floridians," Walker wrote.

"It unfortunately takes only a handful of bad actors to transform a peaceful protest into a violent public disturbance," the judge added.

DeSantis said during an appearance in New Port Richey that the state will take its case to the Atlanta-based 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The governor called the ruling by Walker a "foreordained conclusion" and has said he frequently prevails when appealing Tallahassee judges' orders. □

Scores of Westerners, including Americans, fly out of Kabul

By KATHY GANNON

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— Some 200 foreigners, including Americans, left Afghanistan on a commercial flight out of Kabul on Thursday, the first such large-scale departure since U.S. and other forces completed their frantic withdrawal over a week ago.

The Qatar Airways flight to Doha marked a breakthrough in the bumpy coordination between the U.S. and Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers. A day-long standoff over charter planes at another airport has left dozens of passengers stranded.

A senior U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to talk to the media, provided the number of Westerners on the Qatar flight and said two senior Taliban officials helped facilitate the departure — the new foreign minister and deputy prime minister.

Americans, U.S. green card holders and other nationalities, including Germans, Hungarians and Canadians, were aboard, the official said.

Qatari envoy Mutlaq bin Majed al-Qahtani said



Foreigners board a Qatar Airways aircraft at the airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021.

Associated Press

another 200 passengers will leave Afghanistan on Friday. A diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, also because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said foreigners, including Americans, will depart in the next couple of days.

It was not immediately clear how many Americans were on board Thursday and how many were still in Afghanistan. White House press secretary Jen Psaki

said before the flight that the U.S. believed roughly 100 American citizens remained in the country.

Many thousands of Afghans remain desperate to get out, afraid of what Taliban rule might hold. The Taliban have repeatedly said foreigners and Afghans with proper travel documents could leave. But their assurances have been met with skepticism, even with the departure of the Qatar flight.

U.S. lawmakers, veterans groups and others are pressing the Biden administration to ensure that former Afghan military interpreters and others who could be in danger of Taliban reprisals for working with the Americans are allowed to leave. As Taliban authorities patrolled the tarmac on Thursday, passengers presented their documents for inspection and dogs sniffed luggage laid out on the ground. Some veteran

airport employees had returned to their jobs after fleeing during the harrowing chaos of the U.S.-led airlift. Irfan Popalzai, 12, boarded the flight with his mother and five brothers and sisters. He said his family lives in Maryland.

"I am an Afghan, but you know I am from America and I am so excited" to leave, he said.

Before the flight took off, Qatari officials gathered on the tarmac to announce the airport was ready for the resumption of international commercial flights after days of repairs.

Extensive damage in the frenzied final days of the U.S. airlift that evacuated over 100,000 people had raised questions about how soon regular commercial service could resume.

Experts from Qatar and Turkey have been racing to restore operations.

"I can clearly say that this is a historic day in the history of Afghanistan as Kabul airport is now operational," al-Qahtani said.

"Call it what you want, a charter or a commercial flight, everyone has tickets and boarding passes," he added. "Hopefully, life is becoming normal in Afghanistan." □

Malaysian mothers win battle over 'sexist' citizenship law

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia

(AP) — Several Malaysian mothers won a legal battle Thursday for the right

to pass their nationality to their children born abroad,

a landmark court decision hailed by activists as a giant step toward gender equality.

Malaysia is one of 25 countries that do not give moth-

ers and fathers equal rights under the country's citizenship laws. Malaysia's constitution gives fathers the automatic right to confer citizenship to their children born abroad, but it doesn't mention mothers.

Six Malaysian women and the family support group Family Frontiers filed a legal suit in December 2020 against the decades-old law they called discriminatory. The government argued the court had no jurisdiction to hear the issue of citizenship.

Family Frontiers said in a statement that the Kuala Lumpur High Court ruled that Malaysian women have the same automatic rights as Malaysian men to pass their citizenship to their

overseas-born children.

"Malaysian mothers have faced family separation, along with obstacles to accessing residency, education, health care and social services for their children. Today's ruling is a monumental step in the direction of gender equality," Family Frontiers said.

The group said Judge Aktar Tahir ruled that the citizenship law must be read in harmony with another law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender. The judge said courts are empowered to interpret the law and that the case doesn't seek to change policy but to apply the law in a way that ensures justice, it said.

It cited the judge as say-

ing the "grievances of the plaintiffs are real" and "the discrimination is apparent." It was not immediately known if the government will appeal the decision. Home Ministry officials couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

Family Frontiers has said some Malaysian women remained in abusive marriages so that they don't lose custody of their children, while others face separation from their children if their marriages end.

Its president, Suri Kempe, said the judgement was a huge relief for all Malaysian mothers whose children are affected and that it marked "one step forward to a more egalitarian and just Malaysia." □



In this Tuesday, July 28, 2020, photo, the official government seal marks the main gate of the federal court in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021.

Associated Press

UN: 18,000 Yemeni civilians killed in airstrikes since 2015

CAIRO (AP) — A United Nations panel said Wednesday that at least 18,000 Yemeni civilians have been killed or wounded by airstrikes since the country's war escalated in 2015.

In a report presented to the Human Rights Council, a group of experts named by the U.N. said that Yemen's people have been subjected to some 10 airstrikes a day, a total of more than 23,000 since March 2015.

The report, which cited the Yemen Data Project for the airstrike figures, found both sides in the war to have violated international law. The project, a local data gathering operation, attributes all of the airstrikes to the Saudi-led coalition.

Meanwhile the coalition's rivals, the Houthi rebels, have shelled neighborhoods, camps for the displaced, an airport and markets, leading to the deaths of dozens, according to the U.N. experts.

Yemen has been convulsed by civil war since 2014 when the Iran-backed Houthis took control of the capital of Sanaa and much of the northern part of the country, forcing the government of President Abed Rabbo



In this Sept. 1, 2019 file photo, bodies covered in plastic lie on the ground amid the rubble of a Houthi detention center destroyed by Saudi-led airstrikes, that killed at least 60 people, in Dhamar province, southwestern Yemen.

Associated Press

Mansour Hadi to flee to the south, then to Saudi Arabia. The Saudi-led coalition, backed at the time by the U.S., entered the war in March 2015 to try restore Hadi to power, and threw its support behind his internationally backed government. Despite a relentless air campaign and ground fighting, the war has deteriorated largely into a stalemate, also spawning the

world's worst humanitarian crisis. The U.S. has since suspended its direct involvement in the conflict.

Neither the Saudi-led coalition nor the Houthis immediately responded to requests for comment on the report. In the past, both have leveled charges at their opponents for bearing the greater responsibility for civilian deaths. The true toll of the conflict remains

in question, due to limited access to some of the remote areas in which it is conducted. In December 2020, the U.N.'s humanitarian body said that the war had caused more than 200,000 deaths, including more than 100,000 from indirect causes such as starvation and preventable causes due to lack of basic services. The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data

Project, or ACLED, which collects conflict data internationally, says that the war has killed 144,620 people between 2015 and now.

The U.N. report pointed towards the airstrikes having been committed by the Saudi-led coalition, without directly accusing it.

The Houthis do not have a functional air force, but they have launched attacks by explosive-laden drones that have left casualties among civilians. They rely on ground-fired missiles and rockets, largely. Both sides were found to have made targets of key health facilities and food supply chain infrastructure.

Among the shelling incidents investigated was a December 2020 attack at Aden international airport that killed at least 25 people moments after a plane carrying new members of the internationally recognized government arrived. U.N. experts have previously said the attack could be fairly conclusively attributed to Houthi-fired rockets.

The U.N. report said the continued sale of weapons to both sides of the war has exacerbated the fighting. □

West African bloc to send delegation to Guinea after coup

By FRANCIS KOKUTSE
Associated Press

ACCRA, Ghana (AP) — A delegation of West African leaders is to travel to Guinea to meet with the junta that toppled President Alpha Conde in a coup earlier this week.

Top officials of West Africa's influential economic bloc, ECOWAS, are expected to meet in Conakry, the capital, with the military officers now ruling the country and press them to immediately return the country to constitutional rule.

The 15-nation regional bloc suspended Guinea following the coup led by Col. Mamady Doumbouya, according to a communique issued after a virtual summit of the region's leaders.

"The authorities expressed deep concern over the

coup d'etat of September 5, 2021, and their consequences for regional peace and stability," the communique said. ECOWAS reaffirmed its opposition to any "political changes by unconstitutional means

and condemn in strongest terms, this coup."

The regional bloc urged Guinea's coup leaders to assure the safety of the deposed president "as well as that of all arrested persons." Conde remains in

the custody of the junta, who have only said that he is in a secure location with access to medical care.

Ghana's President Nana Addo Akufo-Addo said the coup is a "violation of our common charter on governance in the ECOWAS region."

Guinea's junta has released dozens of political prisoners jailed by the previous civilian government. The 79 prisoners freed had been held on a variety of charges, including breaching security, destroying public property and manufacturing weapons. All were invited to attend a political rally Saturday in Guinea's capital, Conakry.

Many of those freed are activists from the Union of Democratic Forces of

Guinea, a longtime opposition party led by Cellou Dalein Diallo, who ran and lost to Conde in the last three presidential polls.

The opposition has said it will work together with the junta but also urged the new military leadership to quickly restore the rule of law.

The prisoners' release was welcomed by Guineans who had demonstrated against Conde's quest for a third term in office last year.

Conde, who already had served two terms, said last year that the constitutional term limits no longer applied after voters backed a referendum at his behest. The 83-year-old could have remained in power until 2030 until Sunday's military coup. □



A woman sells food on a street in Conakry, Guinea, Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021.

Associated Press

Brazil judge claps back at 'undemocratic' Bolsonaro vow

By DÉBORA ÁLVARES and
DIANE JEANTET

Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — The Brazilian Supreme Court's Chief Justice Luiz Fux on Wednesday issued a sharp rebuttal to President Jair Bolsonaro, one day after the right-wing leader escalated his feud with the court by vowing to no longer abide by one of its justice's rulings.

"Encouraging non-compliance with court decisions is undemocratic, illicit and intolerable," Fux said in a nationally televised message. He added that if Bolsonaro were to disobey a court ruling, or someone else were to do so at his urging, it would constitute a crime.

"No one will close this court, we will keep it standing," he added.

At demonstrations in support of Bolsonaro on Tuesday, many people displayed signs and banners railing against the Supreme Court, demanding it be dissolved or that one justice in particular, Alexandre de Moraes, be removed. De Moraes is overseeing an investigation targeting the president and two of his sons. Bolsonaro formally requested the justice's impeachment last month.



Supporters of Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro, displaying a banner that reads in Portuguese "We Demand the Immediate Dismissal of All Supreme Court Ministers and Criminalization of Communism," protest in front of the barrier set up by the military police after they threatened to break into the Supreme Court headquarters, in Brasilia, Brazil, Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021.

Associated Press

"Any decision from Mr. Alexandre de Moraes, this president will no longer comply with. The patience of our people has run out," Bolsonaro told a cheering crowd in Sao Paulo. "For us, he no longer exists."

That statement and others on Tuesday have pitched jurists and politicians into harried discussions about how to prevent Bolsonaro from further antagonizing

the judiciary or firing up his base with incendiary rhetoric. Centrist politicians have thus far declined to back impeachment proceedings, but for the first time are publicly floating that possibility.

Over 130 impeachment requests have been filed since the start of Bolsonaro's administration, but the Lower House's Speaker Arthur Lira and his prede-

cessor declined to open proceedings. Political analysts and politicians say that, in the absence of massive protests against Bolsonaro, Lira is unlikely to change course.

The president's approval ratings have slumped due to the government's woe-ful COVID-19 response and surging inflation, yet he remains far more popular than prior presidents who

were impeached. And as Tuesday proved he is still capable of rallying his energetic following to the streets.

Following the demonstrations, dozens of current and former centrist politicians formed a group on messaging service WhatsApp entitled "Democratic Pacification." They have been debating which path to take, particularly whether to pressure Lira to trigger impeachment proceedings.

The leaders of 12 leftist and centrist political parties were meeting on Wednesday night to discuss, among other things, their adherence to a possible impeachment. At least two of the parties have already sided in favor.

"Politics are at a crossroads," Carlos Marun, a former lawmaker from the Brazilian Democratic Movement party who participates in the chat group, and also a former Bolsonaro ally, told The Associated Press.

"Lawmakers must decide whether they will ignore Bolsonaro's anti-democratic rhetoric, possibly encouraging even more serious threats, or go for impeachment." □

Groups sue Mexico seeking to stop mass removal of migrants

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Four migrant defense groups in Mexico announced Wednesday that they have sought court injunctions to block what they call "massive" deportations, arguing the government is violating due process and Mexican and international law governing asylum.

The groups said one legal action was filed Sept. 3 in the southeastern state of Tabasco and another in Mexico City.

The groups contend the government is acting illegally by expelling migrants "before dawn and at unestablished (border) points" and also by participating in chain expulsions of migrants first flown from the U.S. to southern Mexico

and then carried over land by Mexican officials to the border with Guatemala. The migrants are not told of the possibility of seeking protection in Mexico, the groups said.

The migrants expelled from the United States are removed under so-called Title 42 authority, a health provision enacted during the Trump administration with the justification of the COVID-19 pandemic, but continued under the Biden administration.

Most recently, the U.S. has been flying non-Mexican migrants to airports in Mexico's southern states of Chiapas and Tabasco. Mexican immigration authorities then bus them to the Guatemala border,

even though many of them are not Guatemalan. In August, there were 34 such flights. United Nations agencies have expressed concern as well.

The organizations, including Asylum Access, the Foundation for Justice, Without Borders and the Institute for Women in Migration, argue that the expulsions violate the ban on removing people with international protection needs and not taking into account the higher interest of children nor the perspective of gender.

In recent days, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has insisted Mexico respects the rights of migrants. The government has been criticized over sometimes violent clashes



Haitian migrants protest treatment by immigration officials in Tapachula, Chiapas state, Mexico, Monday, Sept. 6, 2021.

Associated Press

with migrants trying to walk north from the southern city of Tapachula.

The president has said simply containing migrants in southern Mexico is not sus-

tainable and sent a letter this week to U.S. President Joe Biden insisting the U.S. do more to address the root causes of migration in the region. □

AHATA: Hotel Occupancy fell in August due to latest COVID-19 Wave

ORANJESTAD - The Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association has released the most recent hotel performance results and announced that in August the hotels experienced a six point loss in average occupancy after the CDC's alert travel for Aruba.

AUGUST 2021:

- **Occupancy:** The occupancy rate was 70.9%, 18.4% lower than in July 2019. One month ago, occupancy was expected to be 77%.
- **ADR:** The average daily rate (for occupied rooms) was \$252.72, which is an increase of 6.2% compared to 2019.
- **RevPAR:** The revenue per available room achieved was \$179.25, representing a 13.3% reduction from 2019.

YEAR TO DATE:

In the first eight months of 2021, Aruba's hotels experienced an average occupancy of 53%. When compared to the same period last year, ADR is down 10% and RevPAR down 45%.

OCCUPANCY FORECAST:

	Occupancy	Occ level compared to 2019
September	60%	75%
October	65%	85%
November	72%	86%
2021	59%	70%



TIMESHARE

AHATA's Timeshare properties were projected to have an 84% average occupancy, but due to the CDC's travel advisory, occupancy in August dropped to 79%.

AHATA member hotels: Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort, Barceló Aruba, Boardwalk Boutique Hotel, Brickell Bay Beach Club, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Courtyard by Marriott, Divi & Tamarijn All-Inclusive, Eagle Aruba Resort, Holiday Inn Resort Aruba, Hyatt Regency Aruba, Hyatt Place Aruba Airport, Manchebo Beach Resort, Marriott Aruba & Stellaris Casino, Paradera Park, Radisson Blu Aruba, Renaissance Aruba Resort, The Ritz-Carlton Aruba, RIU Palace Aruba, RIU Palace Antillas, Talk of the Town Hotel.

AHATA member timeshares: Divi Aruba Phoenix, Divi Dutch Village, Divi Village Golf, La Cabana, Marriott Ocean Club, Marriott Surf Club. □

Travel + Leisure awarded Aruba in the top 25 of Best Caribbean Islands

ORANJESTAD - The Aruba Tourism Authority (A.T.A) received a very pleasant news stating that the well-known magazine Travel + Leisure (based in New York with a publication of 12 times per year and 48 billion readers) awarded Aruba in three different categories.

This year's World's Best Awards survey was open for voting January 11 through May 10, 2021, as destinations around the world were lifting COVID-19 restrictions. Survey rules have always allowed readers to reflect on their travel experiences over a three-year period. We hope that this year's honorees will inspire your own travels as you get back out into the world.

The best islands in the world, according to T+L readers, are the kind of Instagram-perfect destinations that travelers fantasize about on winter evenings: dreamy, sun-drenched landscapes surrounded by the bluest waters. And since there's an island destination for everyone, what constitutes "paradise" likely boils down to specific interests — history, culture, heart-pumping adventure, or something else entirely.

Every year for our World's Best Awards survey, T+L asks readers to weigh in on travel experiences around the globe — to share their opinions on the top cities, islands, cruise ships, spas, airlines, and more. Readers rated islands according to their activities and sights, natural attractions and beaches, food, friendliness, and overall value.

In the top 25 Caribbean islands, Aruba was featured at the top at number 3. Aruba is especially liked for its white sandy beaches, friendly people and the many activities the island has to offer.

In the top 25 worldwide islands, Aruba was the number 18 spot.

Also, another great news is that Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort ranked at number 12 in the category for top 25 Caribbean Resorts.

A.T.A would like to congratulate each and every one who day by day give their utmost for our island. Let's continue protecting our natural resources, cultural heritage and our friendliness as human beings to support our island and our tourism. Congratulations Aruba! □

HARBOUR HOUSE
Aruba

The New Downtown Living
Get your Own Ocean
Front Condo

Over 80% Already Sold

(+297) 594 6395
Weststraat 2, Oranjestad, Aruba
sales@harbourhousearuba.com

www.harbourhousearuba.com



Birds of Aruba Troupial

Certainly one of most striking of Aruba's native birds, the Troupial is a large oriole with sharply contrasting bright orange and black pattern, with bright blue around the eye and at the base of the bill. The Troupial's loud, piping song is thrilling to hear.

Troupials make stops at some of the resorts to look for food but they often typically don't stay for long. Take a trip to the hills of Arikok National Park to make sure you don't leave the island without a look and a listen to this special bird. □

WIN \$10 UP TO \$1,000 IN FREE SLOT PLAY THE DAY YOU JOIN THE CLUB!

50/30
Friday!We're giving away
\$50 Free Slot Play
to lucky slot and table
game players **every**
30 minutes from
7pm to 11:30pm!**THE SHOPS
AT ALHAMBRA CASINO**Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets,
Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins | Fusion Piano & Wine Bar
Hungry Piranha | Twist of Flavors | Juan Valdez Café
The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood | SubwayAlhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 1am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.

Acceptance of formation mission and nomination of candidate ministers



ORANJESTAD - The formateur, Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes, has presented her final report to the Governor of Aruba, His Excellency Alfonso Boekhoudt. The formateur has come to the conclusion that the candidates to be nominated are suitable for the office of minister or minister plenipotentiary, after assessment on the basis of the National Decree of 9 September 2013. On August 27, the Governor had already signed the coalition agreement signed by MEP and RAIZ. received and was then informed by the formateur about the portfolio allocation. The formateur has now formally accepted the formation assignment.

The following persons have been nominated by the formateur to be appointed as ministers:

1. Evelyn C. Wever-Croes as Minister of General Affairs, Innovation, Government Organization, Infrastructure and Spatial Planning, also Prime Minister
2. Geoffrey B. Wever as Minister of Economic Affairs, Communication, Sustainable Development
3. Ursell M. Arends as Minister of Integrity, Nature, Transport and Elderly Care
4. Xiomara J. Maduro as Minister of Finance and Culture
5. Rocco G. Tjon as Minister of Justice and Social Affairs
6. Glenbert F. Croes as Minister of Labour, Integration and Energy
7. Danguillaume P. Oduber as Minister of Health and Tourism
8. Endy J.H. Croes as Minister of Education and Sports

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Council of Ministers, the new Council of Ministers will decide on the nomination to the Governor regarding the appointment of the Minister Plenipotentiary in the Netherlands.

After the draft national decrees for the dismissal of the sitting ministers and the appointment of the new ministers have been presented to the Governor, the Governor will request the President of the Parliament for Parliament's opinion on the intended dismissal and the intended appointment of the ministers. If there are no objections on the part of the Parliament to the Governor's intention, the incumbent ministers can be dismissed and the new ministers appointed and sworn in. The date of swearing in is not yet known. □

Birds of Aruba

Caribbean Parakeet- Prikichi



If we go back 10 years ago, visitors of Aruba could delight at seeing flocks of native, wild parakeets roaming the countryside, sometimes coming near some of the resorts that maintain native vegetation. Unfortunately, this bird has experienced steep declines in recent years, apparently due to introduced boa's. Although efforts are underway to eradicate the snake, such a task is proving difficult.

To try and locate Brown-throated Parakeets, listen to their loud, raucous shrieks. The birds may appear green at first glimpse, but a closer view will reveal the beautiful bluish colors in the wings, the yellow under the tail, and the yellowish eye ring. Parakeets from Aruba are described as a distinct subspecies and are drabber than the subspecies from Curaçao and Bonaire, which have brighter yellow on the face and throat. □

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. □

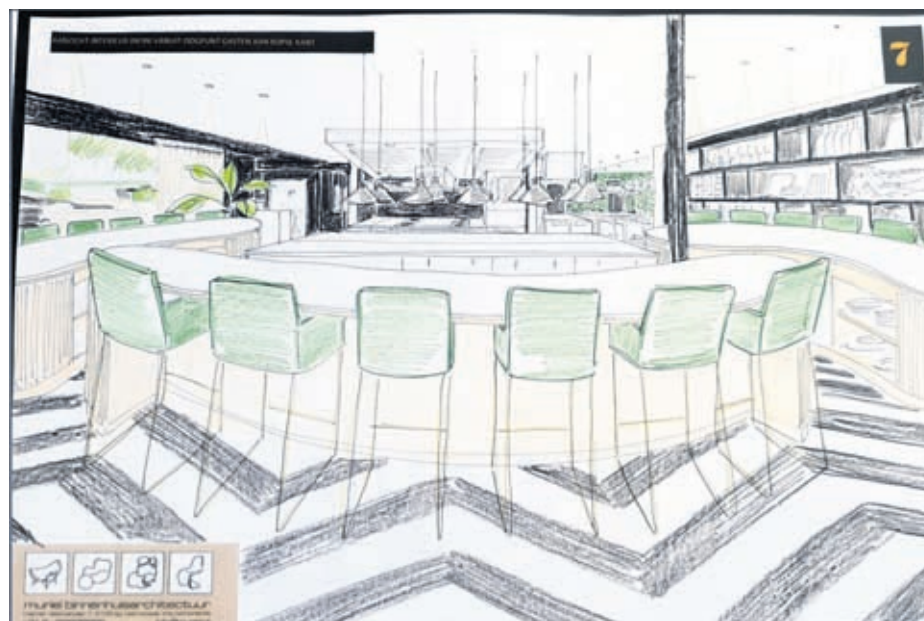
New beginnings after the kitchen table and beyond with new restaurant: Infini by Chef Urvin Croes

PALM BEACH — After spearheading The Kitchen Table for five years, receiving notable recognitions in USA Today, The Daily Meal and earning the #1 spot on Tripadvisor's list of Fine Dining Restaurants in the Caribbean, Chef Urvin Croes has now moved on to higher heights. Infini, his new chef's table, which opened at the Blue Residences in November 2020, allows the Michelin-trained Aruban culinary artist to create gastronomic experiences unconfined by cultural or regional expectations. The former The Kitchen Table space has since been renovated into a suitable culinary studio to host this vision. In describing these changes, Croes says: "We opened up the entire kitchen and elevated the dining tables so guests have a front row stadium-like view of each step of the preparations. The spotlights, which we carefully choreograph, follow the plates' transition from blank canvas into culinary works of art."

"It is a flavor that you cannot define, but you can create."

He had been sitting on the first menu for over a year. Inspired by umami, one of the five basic tastes, and also Japanese for "essence of deliciousness", Chef Croes strived to organically produce this palate in each dish of the eight-course Chef's Impression. "It is a flavor that you cannot define, but you can create. Take our popular langoustine for example; we combined elements that are rarely paired together: the bitter, sour and salty flavors of the lemon cream, kombucha, green grapes, watercress and achiote, fused with the sweet and delicate taste of the langoustine induce ultimate umami."

After hosting the first menu for three months, the Executive Chef introduced a second tour de force in February 2021 — this time a pes-



catarian menu dedicated to Lent, of which Croes has to say: "I wanted to focus on the finest fish in the world, they are the protagonists of this season." Visitors can experience the second Chef's Impression until May 2021, at which point Croes and his team will reveal exciting new flavors for the summer.

"Without a great team, there is no great chef"

"There is very little I can do by myself. Without a great team, there is no great chef", says Croes, while raving about the six young professionals sharing his kitchen. All graduates of Aruba's EPI College and familiar faces to the Chef as each one has completed their culinary internship under his guidance. In fact, Infini's Chef de Cuisine, Ashwin Maduro, was Urvin's very first student, before relocating to Amsterdam, where he worked at several Michelin-starred restaurants, including &moshik (formally &Samhoud Places). Having recently re-



turned to Aruba, Chef Maduro is thrilled to be reunited with his first mentor and hopes to secure Aruba's space on the global map of unique culinary experiences. Similarly, after four years working in the two-Michelin starred restaurant Spectrum, Chef de Partie Moises Ramirez returned home to share his vast experience in formulating recipes with meticulous attention to detail and consistency. Further down the kitchen line, Chef de Partie Alvaro Yi, who has worked at the two-Michelin starred FG Restaurant, is all about expressing himself through cooking and plating to create art that you can eat. Mixologist Marc-Anthony Rannis brings eight years of experience in the fine dining industry to Infini. His fine craftsmanship is displayed in the unparalleled wine pairings and signature cocktails, which include his personally homemade syrups, garnishes and fresh local ingredients. Maître D' and Junior Sommelier Jessica Theysen, who previously



managed renowned Chef Dennis Huwaë's Restaurant Daalder in Amsterdam, is a true storyteller. From the moment she serves the Salinity welcome drink and the culinary tale begins, she takes you on an adventure around the world to discover never-before-tasted combinations. Then, towards the end of the night, it is his time to shine — Pastry Chef Jean-Claude Werleman, that is. After spending the last two years perfecting his recipes in the Pastry Department of the Ritz Carlton Aruba, Werleman joins Infini to continue exploring his passion for experimenting with colors and bold flavors.

"It's time to show that Aruba is a culinary destination of its own"

"The goal is to leave our visitors speechless. The look on their faces whenever they take the first bite says it all and it is priceless", shares Croes, with a smile. Reclaiming the spot of number one restaurant in the Caribbean is also in sight, but this time he will not stop there. "In the end, we want Aruba to be recognized for its culinary mastery. We have trained the best culinary artists right here on the island and they have proven themselves internationally in the most renowned kitchens in the world. Now it is time to show that Aruba is a culinary destination of its own. Who knows where that will take us; hopefully to infinity and beyond."

Infini located at Blue Residences currently serves an eight-course Chef's Impression to up to 21 guests starting at 6:30PM. To make reservations visit www.infiniaruba.com or call +297-699-3982. □



infini
by Urvin Croes



4 ways to manage retirement health care costs

By **KATE ASHFORD**
of NerdWallet

Health care in retirement is a big-ticket item. Experts estimate that an average 65-year-old retired couple in 2021 would need about \$300,000 in after-tax savings earmarked for health care costs in their post-work life, even with Medicare, according to Fidelity. The totals are daunting, but you can take steps to keep costs as low as possible with the right planning, good insurance choices and a healthy understanding of your conditions and coverage. Try these strategies — now and in retirement — to help control your health care bills.

1. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AN HSA

A health savings account allows you to put pretax money away for medical expenses. You can invest the funds, and both the principal and earnings are tax-free if you use them for eligible medical costs, today or in the future. This creates a powerful savings tool.

To use an HSA, you must have a high-deductible health plan. If that kind of plan makes sense for you, experts recommend saving money to your HSA and leaving it untouched for as long as possible. In 2021, you can save up to \$3,600 pretax as a single person or up to \$7,200 if you have family coverage.

"These accounts are the most tax-efficient plans available," says Sallie Mullins Thompson, a certified



This Feb. 24, 2021 file photo shows an emergency room sign outside Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Torrance, Calif.

Associated Press

public accountant and certified financial planner in New York City. "The main thing you need to do is contribute to it religiously whenever you can."

2. MAKE A PLAN FOR LONG-TERM CARE

A person turning 65 today has about a 70% chance of needing long-term care at some point, according to the Department of Health and Human Services. One of the best ways to approach this issue is to plan for it: How long do you intend to stay in your home? Where will you go when you can't live there anymore? Who will help you with financial and health care decisions?

"People don't like talking about it because it's

uncomfortable thinking about getting old and people taking care of you," says Carolyn McClanahan, a physician-turned-CFP in Jacksonville, Florida. But planning can help you prepare for a change in circumstances.

This could mean buying a traditional long-term care insurance policy, which can cost thousands of dollars per year, according to the American Association for Long-Term Care Insurance. Or you might consider a hybrid insurance product that combines permanent life insurance with a long-term care rider. (You can use the benefit to pass money down to your heirs or — if you need it — you can tap it for long-term

care expenses.)

You could also self-insure by setting money aside annually for long-term care expenses. The important thing is to consider your options while you're in your 50s or early 60s, before products get too expensive.

3. GET THE RIGHT MEDICARE PLAN

Choosing the best Medicare policy once you turn 65 means finding one that includes your preferred doctors and your regular medications, helping you avoid high out-of-network and out-of-pocket costs. You'll also need to consider whether you want access to all doctors who accept Medicare — as with an Original Medicare plan — or whether you want a

plan that comes with extra benefits but a more limited provider network, such as a Medicare Advantage plan.

One way to approach Medicare is to find an agent who can help you compare options. Find someone who's certified to sell as many carriers as possible, meaning they'll be able to present the full array of choices in your area, says Matt Chancey, a CFP in Tampa, Florida.

4. ASK QUESTIONS

Be an active participant in your health care, no matter what life stage you're in. When your medical provider orders tests, which can drive up your medical costs, make sure you understand why they're being done.

"Say to them, 'What do you hope to learn from this, and is doing this going to change the treatment?'" McClanahan says. "It's important to do that, because a lot of times, doctors order things rotely. It's part of their protocol and they don't stop and think, 'Is it really needed in this case?'"

The same goes for prescriptions. Ask your doctor whether there's something less expensive you could take, or whether there are changes you could make that would help. "A lot of doctors won't spend the time talking about lifestyle changes, so they throw pills at people," McClanahan says. "You can avoid a lot of medications just by doing the right thing." □

U.S., Mexico restart high-level economic talks after 4 years

By **AAMER MADHANI**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and Mexico restarted high-level economic talks Thursday after a four-year pause as top advisers to presidents Joe Biden and Andrés Manuel López Obrador expressed eagerness to make headway on issues important to both nations such as infrastructure, trade and

migration. The talks were launched by Biden in 2013 when he was vice president under Barack Obama but were halted under President Donald Trump, whose hard-line immigration policies complicated the United States' relationship with its top trade partner.

Vice President Kamala Harris opened Thursday's meeting with brief remarks in which she sought to em-

phasize the Biden administration's desire for warmer relations, referring to the Mexican delegation as "our friends, our partners." She also stressed the importance of improving relations in a moment when dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, cyber threats and supply chain disruptions are high priorities for both nations. □



Mexican Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard, left, accompanied by Vice President Kamala Harris, right, speaks at a U.S.-Mexico High Level Economic Dialogue meeting in the Indian Treaty Room in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House Campus in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021.

Associated Press

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

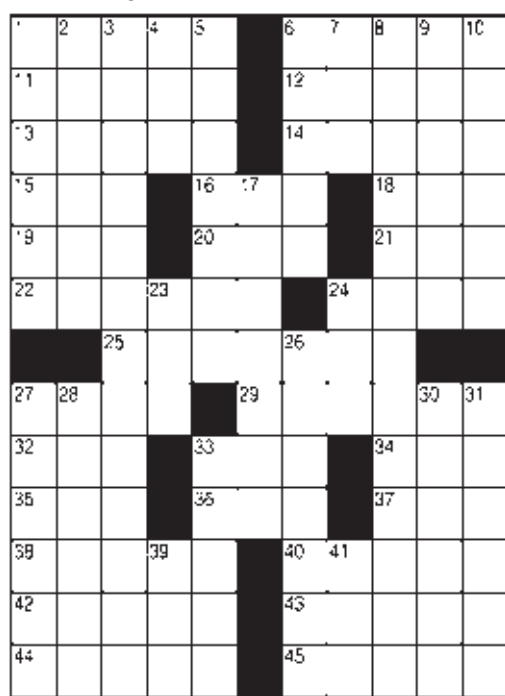
ACROSS
1 Beach gifts
6 Houston one's own player
11 Concerning some
12 Singer-songwriter Leonard
13 Sullen sort
14 Corundum, for one
15 Keats work
16 Melody
18 Homer's neighbor
19 Harden
20 Travel stop
21 Tapped item
22 Nod
24 Silent worker
25 Campaign loser
27 Radio format
29 Goal
32 Maximum amount
33 Fuming
34 Saloon quaff
35 Corp. or Sgt.
36 Yale rooster
37 Not strict

DELHI	BAWLS
ARIES	AVAIL
SANER	SIXTY
ELATED	
RADERS	FAT
USABLE	TINY
NINEINNINGS	
TACT	TUPELO
ONE	JOG PEN
HANGAR	
ABRAM	ERICH
BOOZE	TENSE
CODES	SATIN

Yesterday's answer

DOWN

1 Indian turnover
2 Homes
3 Motel sign
4 Expected
5 Tries hard
6 Squirrel's find
7 Boston team, familiarly
8 Saying what's on one's mind
9 Cash in
10 Nervous
17 Collectively
23 Caribou's kin
24 Spoil
26 Some tires
27 Shared bike
28 Statue setting
30 Go by
31 One having a silent conversation
33 Oscar winner
39 Period
41 Buck's mate



AXYDLBAAXR
 IS LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-10

CRYPTOQUOTE

N M Z B R B M R Y B S H P F E V B O P

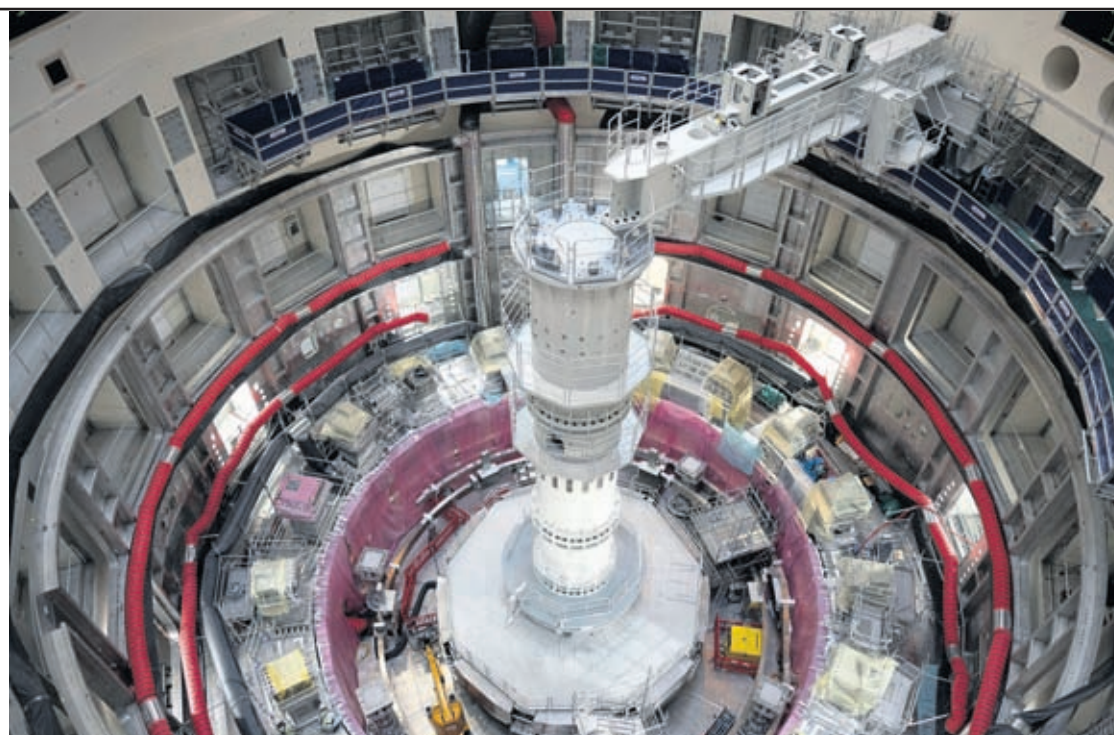
U H V P G B N O V B I H N O E V B B O J Y B .

S F H Y B M P F B V N S H P F E V B O P

U H D B N O V B I B Y H E P P W G Y .

— Y O V M D F B W M G D O G Y I

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: HAPPINESS IS HAVING A LARGE, LOVING, CARING, CLOSE-KNIT FAMILY — IN ANOTHER CITY. — GEORGE BURNS



The ITER Tokamak machine is pictured in Saint-Paul-Lez-Durance, France, Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021. Associated Press

Magnet milestones move distant nuclear fusion dream closer

By FRANK JORDANS, SETH BORENSTEIN and DANIEL COLE

Associated Press

SAINT-PAUL-LES-DURANCE, France (AP) —

Teams working on two continents have marked similar milestones in their respective efforts to tap an energy source key to the fight against climate change: They've each produced very impressive magnets. On Thursday, scientists at the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor in southern France took delivery of the first part of a massive magnet so strong its American manufacturer claims it can lift an aircraft carrier.

Almost 60 feet (nearly 20 meters) tall and 14 feet (more than four meters) in diameter when fully assembled, the magnet is a crucial component in the attempt by 35 nations to master nuclear fusion.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology scientists and a private company announced separately this week that they, too, have hit a milestone with the successful test of the world's strongest high temperature superconducting magnet that may allow the team to leapfrog ITER in the race to build a 'sun on earth.'

Unlike existing fission reactors that produce radioactive waste and sometimes catastrophic meltdowns, proponents of fusion say it offers a clean and virtually limitless supply of energy. If, that is, scientists and engineers can figure out how to harness it they have been working on the problem for nearly a century.

Rather than splitting atoms, fusion mimics a process that occurs naturally in stars to meld two hydrogen atoms together and produce a helium atom as well as a whole load of energy.

Achieving fusion requires unimaginable amounts of heat and pressure. One approach to achieving that is to turn the hy-

drogen into an electrically charged gas, or plasma, which is then controlled in a donut-shaped vacuum chamber.

This is done with the help of powerful superconducting magnets such as the 'central solenoid' that General Atomics began shipping from San Diego to France this summer.

Scientists say ITER is now 75% complete and they aim to fire up the reactor by early 2026.

"Each completion of a major first-of-a-kind component such as the central solenoid's first module increases our confidence that we can complete the complex engineering of the full machine," said ITER's spokesman Laban Coblentz.

The ultimate goal is to produce ten times more energy by 2035 than is required to heat up the plasma, thereby proving that fusion technology is viable.

Among those hoping to beat them to the prize is the team in Massachusetts, which said it has managed to create magnetic field twice that of ITER's with a magnet about 40 times smaller.

The scientists from MIT and Commonwealth Fusion Systems said they may have a device ready for everyday use in the early 2030s.

"This was designed to be commercial," said MIT Vice President Maria Zuber, a prominent physicist. "This was not designed to be a science experiment."

While not designed to produce electricity itself, ITER would also serve as the blueprint for similar but more sophisticated reactors if it is successful.

Proponents of the project argue that even if it fails, the countries involved will have mastered technical skills that can be used in other fields, from particle physics to designing advanced materials capable of withstanding the heat of the sun. □

Facebook, Ray-Ban launch smart glasses — who will wear them?

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**
AP Technology Writer

Seven years after the ill-fated Google Glass, and five years after Snap rolled out Spectacles, another tech giant is trying its hand at internet-connected smart glasses, hoping that this time around things might be different and people will actually wear them.

The thing is, it's Facebook. The company's previous forays into hardware have been met with lukewarm enthusiasm at best — and it's not clear if people will wear connected virtual or augmented reality eyewear not meant for gaming.

Hoping to give its specs a boost, Facebook is putting its tech in Ray-Bans in a partnership with the European company EssilorLuxottica. On Thursday, the companies unveiled Ray-Ban Stories connected eyewear with built-in speakers and a microphone for making calls, a companion app that isn't Facebook, and a charging case.

The spectacles cost \$299 and are available in the U.S., U.K., Canada, Italy, Ireland and Australia.

In a blog post, Facebook said the glasses let people "capture life's spontaneous moments as they happen from a unique first-person perspective," as well as listen to music, talk to people and, using the Facebook View app, share photos and videos on social media.

Facebook signed a multi-year partnership with EssilorLuxottica.

The glasses are the first version of what's likely to be more wearable gadgets as the social media giant looks for platforms beyond smartphones. Ray-Ban Stories come out of Facebook Reality Labs which also oversees the Oculus virtual reality headset and the Portal video calling gadget.

Anticipating privacy concerns, Facebook said that



This photo provided by Facebook shows Ray-Ban internet-connected smart glasses. In a partnership with Ray-Ban, parent EssilorLuxottica, Facebook on Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021, unveiled Ray-Ban Stories — connected eyewear with built-in speakers and microphone for making calls, a companion app that isn't Facebook and a charging case.

Associated Press

by default the glasses "collect data that's needed to make your glasses work and function, like your battery status to alert you when your battery is low, your email address and password for your Facebook login to verify it's really you when you log into the Facebook View app." Users can take photos and

videos using the glasses, but they can't post directly to Facebook or any other social media platform. That's where the separate View app comes in. Convincing social media users that they need to wear an "all-day" connected device on their face may prove an uphill battle even for Facebook.



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Eagle Tel. 587 9011

San Nicolas:

San Nicolas Tel. 584 5712

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editors

Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Richard Brooks

Sales

Linda Reijnders

Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Pilar Flores

Columnists

Anthony Croes

Weststraat 22

T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com

W: www.arubatoday.com

@arubatoday



facebook.com/arubatoday/

'Lucifer' star promises 'good-slash-great' series finale

By HILARY FOX

AP Entertainment Writer

LONDON (AP) — After six years, "Lucifer" stars Tom Ellis and Lauren German are kissing goodbye to their devil-and-detective double act.

They've been solving crimes together on the show that started on Fox, got canceled and rose again (thanks to fan support) on Netflix.

The final 10 episodes drop on the streaming service Friday, and the two leads are feeling nostalgic.

"We finished shooting the series completely, so the nostalgia has been creeping in more and more," German said.

"There's so many lovely memories. It was beautiful. Such a good way to go out and sure, excited to go and do other things."

Ellis agreed, adding that sometimes the memories feel so fresh, it doesn't seem like a long time ago.

"All of us are just so fond of the show and working on it," he said.

"But I think at the same time, you know, six years of doing something is a blessing, and you kind of feel like you want to go off and do other things. Certainly as a creative soul, you want to play other characters."

Both actors were chatting virtually from New York,



This image released by Netflix shows Lauren German, left, and Tom Ellis in a scene from "Lucifer." The final season of the popular supernatural series is streaming on Netflix.

Associated Press

looking decidedly different from their on-screen characters. Aside from the lack of costume — the lord of hell being partial to a three-piece designer suit, and police detective Chloe Decker often in a jeans, blazer and badge combo — they've both had a makeover in the hair department.

"I've been calling it a midlife crisis hair," explains German. "I just got myself a bottle of bleach and went to town. I wanted to change it. I chopped it, bleached it."

"This is my natural look," adds Ellis, gesturing to his head full of curls.

"For several seasons on 'Lucifer,' I had to straighten my hair. So I'm not missing those days anymore, and I'm really, I'm very much embracing the curl and I'm in New York at the moment. So the humidity is also embracing the curl."

As for whether fans will embrace the final episode, Ellis said he hopes they'll enjoy where the journey ends up. As the season starts, Lucifer is expected to take over from God, who retired after

defeating his twin brother, Michael, in a battle for the top job in Heaven. Chloe has given up her police job to be his consultant — a role reversal after all his years helping her and the Los Angeles Police Department.

"We committed to the ending we've got, and I think it's a really, really good, great ending — good-slash-great ending," Ellis said.

"Fingers crossed that people love it. If they don't love the ending, it will be disappointing but I don't think it will, like, I don't think it will

be the be-all and end-all. I think the whole experience of the 'Lucifer' experience over six seasons will be what they walk away with." Their lives have also changed off-screen over six years.

German got a dog — a "massive one" according to Ellis. He got married. The actors also become a lot more recognizable.

"I hate using the phrase 'household names,' but I think within the realms of, like, TV these days, there's so much content, for us to be in a show that people know and recognize and at least have, like, one member of their family that watches it — that feels like a massive achievement," he said.

"It's really lovely, the comments that you get," agreed German, who doesn't want to take too much credit since she didn't write the show.

Fans have approached her to say "Lucifer" made them want to become a cop or that the Chloe-devil relationship helped them through their marriage problems.

"Just to know that you've touched someone even in the smallest way, those are the times that really get to me and make my heart feel happy," she said. □

Judge Judy returning to TV in November, with granddaughter



Judge Judy Sheindlin arrives at the 46th annual Daytime Emmy Awards in Pasadena, Calif., on May 5, 2019.

Associated Press

By DAVID BAUDER

AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Judge

Judy Sheindlin is returning to television on Nov. 1 with a new red robe, a grand-

daughter in tow and the challenge of competing with herself.

She announced on Thursday the start date and name of her new show, "Judy Justice," which will be available weekdays on the little-known IMDb TV, a free streaming service offered by Amazon.

Sheindlin, 79, moved to the new show when her syndication deal with CBS Media Ventures ended with some acrimony after 25 years. For more than a decade, "Judge Judy" has been syndication's most popular show with the tart-talking New Yorker arbitrating small claims cases.

CBS promptly cut a deal to

keep "Judge Judy" reruns on the air.

Sheindlin will be joined on "Judy Justice" by a new television bailiff and stenographer. Sarah Rose, a law clerk and Sheindlin's granddaughter, will be a legal analyst.

"She's smart, sassy and opinionated," her grandmother said. "Who knows where she gets those traits?"

Filming for the old "Judge Judy" ended after CBS bought the show's old episodes from Sheindlin. That enabled CBS to continue selling rights to air them through the syndication market without having to pay her to make new epi-

sodes. Sheindlin was widely believed to be the country's highest-paid television star.

Sheindlin, a former New York judge, was also said to be unhappy with CBS for giving priority time slots to Drew Barrymore's new show at the expense of "Hot Bench," another court show that Sheindlin created, according to The Wall Street Journal.

"We had a nice marriage," Sheindlin told the Journal earlier this year. "It's going to be a Bill and Melinda Gates divorce."

Two of her longtime producers, Randy Douthit and Amy Freisleben, will join her on "Judy Justice." □

Half of U.S. offers legal sports betting as NFL season begins

By **WAYNE PARRY**

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)

— More than half of the United States now offers legal sports betting, just three years after it was allowed by the U.S. Supreme Court. When the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Dallas Cowboys kick off the NFL season Thursday night, gamblers in 26 states plus the District of Columbia are expected to be able to wager on it legally, according to the American Gaming Association, with as many as five additional states offering such bets before the season ends in February with the Super Bowl.

That's up from 18 states with legal sports betting at the start of last year's football season. And some of the biggest markets in the U.S., including California and Florida, are moving toward legalization, with New York planning to adopt mobile sports betting at some point.

The explosive growth of the industry comes as more and more companies join the fray, making it more challenging to gain and hold onto market share and profits.

And it is making things worse for some people with gambling problems, as the industry is coming up with new ways to bet on sports,



A gambler watches sporting events on large screens at the FanDuel sportsbook in East Rutherford N.J. on Aug. 30, 2021.

including live micro-betting on the outcome of things like the next possession in a football game.

"There's no question this will be a huge year, and it will be a record," said Eric Hession, co-president of Caesars Digital, whose parent company bought the William Hill brand this year and renamed it Caesars Sportsbook.

Jerry Arnold, a supervisor at the FanDuel sportsbook at the Meadowlands Race-track in East Rutherford, New Jersey, just outside New York City, said one

trend is clear.

"A lot of people having a lot more money," he said. "They're getting unemployment or stimulus checks and they want to double or triple their money. They say that all the time: 'I just got a check and I'm going to make it double.'"

FanDuel is the official odds provider for The Associated Press.

More than 45 million Americans say they plan to bet on the NFL season this year, according to the American Gaming Association, the casino industry's national

trade group. That's an increase of 36% from last year.

Sean Williams, who is from New London, Connecticut, but now lives in New Jersey, was at the Meadowlands recently to bet \$1,000 on the New England Patriots to win the Super Bowl. He won a sports bet three years ago and has been coming back ever since.

"I came here and won a thousand, so I'm gonna keep flipping those tickets 'til I get a million," he said. "That's my goal. Play with their money. Confidence! I

came here to win."

Mobile betting accounts for more than 80% of sports betting revenue, much of it occurring live as games are underway.

The NFL, which along with other professional leagues once strenuously fought against the legalization of sports betting, now allows seven sports betting companies to advertise during games, and teams in various sports have inked deals with companies to become official sports betting partners, including deals announced Wednesday involving the Baltimore Ravens and the New York Jets.

Media companies continue to tie the knot with gambling firms, seeking synergies among gamblers who want to bet but also read and watch as much as they can about sports.

Sports Illustrated has launched a sportsbook and the Wall Street Journal reports that ESPN is considering a \$3 billion deal to license its brand to one or more sportsbooks.

Even sports merchandise retailer Fanatics plans to launch a sports betting app.

The ever-increasing competition is making it more difficult to win or hold onto a piece of the pie for sports betting companies. □

Steveson signs NIL deal with WWE, will wrestle for Minnesota

CLIFF BRUNT

AP Sports Writer

Olympic gold medalist Gable Steveson has achieved his childhood dream of signing with World Wrestling Entertainment — with a twist.

The WWE announced Thursday that it has signed Steveson to a deal that will allow him to join the WWE roster and return to the University of Minnesota to defend his college heavyweight wrestling title.

It is the WWE's first so-called NIL deal, where college athletes can earn money for their name, image or

likeness without violating NCAA rules.

"There's a lot of possibilities for me with this gold medal," Steveson said after winning the 125kg freestyle class in Tokyo. "A lot of doors opened after me winning a national title, and now the whole world is open for me to see after this Olympic gold medal." The night he won Olympic gold, he declared his allegiance to Minnesota. His love for his school and his home state caused him to consider his options carefully.

Steveson and fellow gold

medalist Tamyra Mensah-Stock appeared at WWE SummerSlam last month, and the crowd of more than 50,000 showed its appreciation.

That appearance increased the hype about his potentially signing with WWE, but in a recent interview with The Associated Press, Steveson had hinted that returning to school was a strong possibility. He has been visible in his home state since winning the gold. He also blew the Gjallarhorn at a Minnesota Vikings preseason game and was on the sideline at



In this Aug. 6, 2021, file photo, United State's Gable Dan Steveson poses with his gold medal during the medal ceremony for the men's freestyle 125kg wrestling at the 2020 Summer Olympics, in Chiba, Japan.

Associated Press

Minnesota's home football game against Ohio State. In his three years at Minnesota, Steveson has been the winningest wrestler in

program history (.971). He looks to become the sixth wrestler in program history to claim multiple NCAA titles. □

NFL opens to full stadiums as COVID-19 surges

By **ROB MAADDI**

AP Pro Football Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — When Tom Brady runs out from the tunnel, screaming “Let’s Go!” and leading the defending Super Bowl champion Buccaneers onto the field Thursday night against the Dallas Cowboys, a full stadium will greet players for the first time since COVID-19 upended the world and changed the way sports were viewed.

The NFL kicks off its biggest season — teams are playing a 17-game schedule — in front of packed crowds as the league follows the NBA, NHL, MLB, NCAA and others in opening its doors with no capacity limitations.

While there were no restrictions in the preseason, stadiums weren’t completely filled as many fans skip exhibition games. That won’t be the case at Raymond James Stadium with more than 65,000 fans expected to see the Buccaneers celebrate their championship before beginning defense of their crown.

Fans return, however, as COVID-19 surges, with about 150,000 news cases daily. The delta variant is filling hospitals, children are getting sick, and some schools are abruptly switching back to remote learning because of outbreaks. The U.S. death toll stands at more than 650,000, with one major forecast model projecting it will top 750,000



In this Saturday, Aug. 28, 2021, file photo, Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady (12) hands off the ball during the first half of a preseason NFL football game against the Houston Texans in Houston.

Associated Press

by Dec. 1 — deep into the NFL season.

“We and our clubs are in daily and regular conversations with local and state authorities, but as we sit here right now, we don’t anticipate any reduction in capacity this year,” Peter O’Reilly, NFL executive vice president of club business and events, said in the league’s last briefing. “We really feel good about where we stand, given the vaccination rates across the country, and feel as though we will be able to move through the season. Obviously, we don’t take anything for granted; we work closely on all of our

protocols, working with and under the guidance of those state and local authorities. As we sit here today, all 30 stadiums are able to be at full capacity and that’s how we expect to go through the season in lockstep with those local and state authorities.”

NFL teams can have different stadium policies and protocols. The Seattle Seahawks, Las Vegas Raiders and New Orleans Saints are requiring fans to provide proof of vaccination to enter. Other teams may join them along the way.

College football’s first full weekend included some stadiums filled to capacity

— more fans than will attend most NFL games.

“While people are still getting sick, people aren’t dying at the same rate, according to the statistics. That’s the key,” said Dr. Rand McLain, chief medical officer of LCR Health. “You go back to where it started, hospitals were loading up and an inordinate amount of people were dying. We’re past that now at least at this time, though we have the delta variant and the mu variant beating the vaccines. From there, being outside is a huge plus. You’re not seeing the transmission when there’s a breeze blowing.”

The Buccaneers have relaxed several protocols. Fans will not be temperature screened and masks are not required, but are encouraged for indoor spaces, regardless of vaccination status.

The Tampa Sports Authority is continuing with enhanced cleaning and disinfection of high-traffic areas. All restrooms have been retrofitted with touchless fixtures and all concession stands will have plexiglass dividers, with staff wearing masks. All parking lots and concessions will continue to be a completely cashless this season.

“As we have stated all along, our top priority has been, and continues to be, the safety of all players, coaches, staff and fans at our games,” said Buccaneers chief operating officer Brian Ford.

A Florida judge ruled Wednesday that the state cannot enforce a ban on public schools mandating the use of masks to guard against the coronavirus, while an appeals court sorts out whether the ban is ultimately legal.

The league hasn’t mandated vaccines for players but strongly encouraged it with strict protocols for those who don’t get the shot. Entering the season opener, 93.5% percent of players are vaccinated. Seventeen teams are above 95%, with the Buccaneers and Falcons at 100%. □



In this July 24, 2021 file photo, Former President Donald Trump speaks on a variety of topics to supporters at a Turning Point Action gathering in Phoenix.

Associated Press

By **JOE REEDY**
AP Sports Writer

Former President Donald

Trump is scheduled to provide commentary from ringside Saturday for an ex-

Former President Trump to serve as boxing commentator

hibition boxing card headlined by 58-year-old former heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield.

Trump will be joined by his son, Donald Jr., in Hollywood, Florida, for the alternate feed for the four-bout card, which will be available on pay-per-view on FITE.TV. According to FITE.TV, the pay-per-view will be \$49.99 and will be available through mobile and Smart TV apps. Both Trumps will be in the building.

“I love great fighters and great fights. I look forward to seeing both this Saturday night and sharing my thoughts ringside. You won’t want to miss this special event,” the former president said in a press release.

The card was originally going to be staged in Los Angeles and headlined by Oscar de la Hoya’s return to the ring to face Vitor Belfort, a former UFC champion, but de la Hoya had to drop out after he was hos-

pitalized with COVID-19. Holyfield stepped in as a late replacement, which led to more changes.

The card was moved to the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Florida after the California State Athletic Commission refused to approve the fight due to Holyfield’s age. The former cruiserweight and heavyweight champion turns 59 in October and has not fought since 2011. His fight with Belfort is slated to be eight two-minute rounds. □